

**Remarks/Arguments:**

With the present amendment, claims 1-17 are pending. All claims and the Abstract have been amended to remove the reference numerals/letters and to place the claims in U.S. form. Claims 5, 6, 8, 11, 13, and 16 have also been amended to remove the multiple dependencies.

Applicant respectfully requests prompt consideration and allowance of the claims.

Respectfully submitted,



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JLE/JEM/mc

Enclosure: ABSTRACT

Dated: June 7, 2006

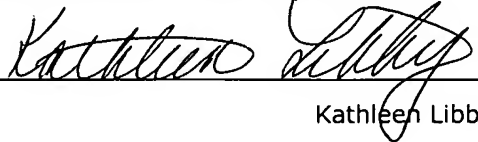
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The Assistant Commissioner for Patents is hereby authorized to charge payment to Deposit Account No. **18-0350** of any fees associated with this communication.

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Kathleen Libby